REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 17, and 18 being independent.

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 14-18 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

The declaration was objected to for not containing the inventor's signature. Applicant notes that an unsigned declaration was submitted with the original application for informational purposes only (i.e., to provide the Applicant's name, address, etc.). However, an executed declaration was submitted on July 18, 2000, together with a Response to Notice to File Missing Parts of Application. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the executed declaration is attached.

The declaration was also objected to as containing the post office address of the assignee instead of the applicant. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to M.P.E.P. §605.03, which states "Either applicant's home or business address is acceptable as the mailing address."

Claims 15-17 have been objected to because of incorrect punctuation. The punctuation has been corrected.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement due to the recitation of encryption means in the output

means. That claim has been amended in view of the Examiner's comments, and Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 7-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7-14 in particular were rejected for omitting essential elements, and the Examiner states that a connection between the two data processing apparatuses is omitted. Regarding Claim 7, Applicant submits that the claim depends from Claim 1 and is directed to an apparatus that encrypts and transmits data. Claim 8 is a separate independent claim. Claim 8 and its dependent claims are directed to an apparatus that receives and decrypts data. These claims are directed to distinct and independent apparatuses, and none of the claims recites two data processing apparatuses. Accordingly, Applicant submits no connection between two apparatuses need be recited.

Regarding Claims 15 and 16, the Examiner asserts that these claims provide for the use of a data processing method but do not set forth any steps involved in the method. In response, Applicant notes that each of those claims recites numerous steps for processing data, e.g., (in Claim 15) inputting data, extracting a portion of the data, encrypting the extracted portion of data, combining the encrypted portion of data with the remaining portion that was not extracted. Thus, these claims clearly recite method steps for processing data, and the rejection should be withdrawn. If the Examiner maintains this rejection, she is requested to explain in detail how these steps are deemed not to be active positive steps.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly reciting a use without setting forth any steps involved in the process. As discussed above, and readily apparent

from the claims themselves, these claims each recite numerous step. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,805,700 (Nardone, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,412,730 (Jones). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As recited in Claims 1, 15, and 17, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of extracting a particular portion of data, encrypting the particular portion that was extracted, combining the encrypted portion with the remaining portion of data that was not extracted, and transmitting the combined data.

As recited in Claims 8, 16, and 18, the present invention includes, among others, the features of extracting a portion of data, decrypting the extracted portion, combining the decrypted portion with the remaining portion that was not extracted, and outputting the combined data.
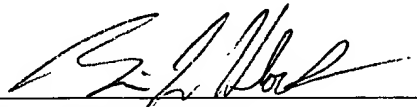
Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features. Nardone, et al. discloses that compressed video is selectively encrypted, and Jones, et al. discloses data transmission by turning on or off encryption. However, neither of those patents, alone or in combination, discloses at least the feature of combining an encrypted portion or decrypted portion of data with a remaining portion that was not extracted and transmitting or outputting the combined data. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in the independent claims is patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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